

thickness t , of greater than one the traction sheave including a surface configured to receive the engagement surface of the tension member.

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2. The sheave according to Claim 1, wherein the elevator system further includes a car and counterweight interconnected by the tension members, and wherein the surface of the sheave is a traction surface configured to receive the engagement surface such that traction between the sheave and tension member moves the car and counterweight.

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3. A sheave according to Claim 2, wherein the traction surface is contoured to complement the engagement surface of the tension member such that traction between the sheave and tension member is enhanced.

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4. The sheave according to Claim 1, wherein the traction surface is contoured to complement the engagement surface of the tension member to guide the tension member during engagement with the sheave.

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5. The sheave according to Claim 1, wherein the surface includes a diameter D , and wherein the diameter D varies laterally to provide a guidance mechanism during engagement of the tension member and sheave.

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6. The sheave according to Claim 1, wherein the traction sheave includes a pair of retaining rims on opposite sides of the sheave.

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7. The sheave according to Claim 1, wherein the sheave includes a surface for each tension member, and further includes one or more dividers that separate the plurality of surfaces.

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8. The sheave according to Claim 1, further including a guidance device disposed proximate to the surface, the guidance device engageable with the tension member to position the tension member for engagement with the surface.